

FACT SHEET

N.C. Agriculture Drought Recovery Program

Purpose: This cost-sharing project will assist farmers with restoring drought-damaged pastureland and providing additional water supply for livestock and crops.

Description: The project responds to immediate, critical needs resulting from the record-breaking drought of 2007. Grants will cover 75 percent of the cost of certain projects necessary to restore pasturelands to usable condition or to create new or improved water supplies for livestock and crops, to avoid crises in the event of future drought. Recipients will cover the remaining 25 percent of the cost. Eligible projects include:

- Pasture renovation
- Drilling and redrilling wells
- Pond construction and renovation
- Conversion of closed lagoons to fresh water ponds
- Upgrading existing irrigation systems

Technical assistance will be available to assist farmers with grass selection and other pastureland management for long-term productivity.

Who is eligible: Eligible applicants are all North Carolina farmers adversely affected by the drought of 2007 with a total adjusted gross income of less than \$250,000 or those who derive 75 percent of their income from farming operations.

How it will be administered: The Division of Soil and Water Conservation of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources will operate the program through its 96 district offices, located through the state. Farmers may contact their local district office to learn if they are eligible and how to apply.

Timetable: The program gets under way May 1. It will end upon the depletion of available funds or until the need has been met.

Source: The N.C. Tobacco Trust Fund Commission has awarded a \$6 million grant to launch the project. An additional \$6 million is being requested from the N.C. General Assembly.

Stakeholder groups participating in project design: N.C. General Assembly Joint Select Committee on Agricultural Drought Response, N.C. Department of Agriculture, North Carolina Grange, N.C. Farm Bureau, NCSU Agricultural Extension Service, N.C. Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, U.S. Department of Agriculture, N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission, N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Agricultural Advancement Consortium, N.C. Rural Economic Development Center.

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